The Pennsylvanian - NYC to Chicago - A Postal History

Notable Railroad Route With Stops In Six States

Purpose: To portray the daily route of the ***Pennsylvanian*** utilizing postal covers reflecting the **28** RR towns along the route. The exhibit provides a perspective illustrating the posting of mail from these **28** P. O.'s with markings, dates, and rates New York City to Chicago.

Organizational Format: The journey inaugurates at the eastern terminus (NYC) and proceeds the **925** rail miles westward to Chicago, the end of the line. This story does not overlook the return trip as a few stops are only on the eastbound return run and/or only used on Sundays. This exhibit underscores Post Office activity usually foreshadowed train development in the United States. The Exhibit recognizes the historical impact made by the growth, particularly east to west, of this significant railroad route 'viz a viz' the postal distribution and population levels.

Scope of covers: 1795 to 1900

New York City, New York - RR Operational: 1834 **1st P. O. opened in 1775**

1799 stampless folded letter

New York City's ***Clamshell*** (29mm x 22mm) postmark

The correct 12-1/2 cent rate for distance per the Act of March 2, 1799

New York City to Philadelphia

Datelined July 9, 1799

1st U. S. Mail on RR: The Post Office Department recognized the value of Railroads for mail delivery as early as November 30, **1832**, when the stage coach contractors on a route from Philadelphia to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, were granted an allowance "***for carrying the mail on the railroad* as far as West Chester**," Chester County, Pennsylvania (25 miles).